

Coleview Pre-School

Covid19 new Policy and Procedures

Updated 7/02/2022

In line with government guidance and recommendations for education and childcare Coleview Preschool will be adopting the following policy and procedures to protect children, staff and visitors.

Coronavirus like many viruses is spread through droplets in the air and enter the body through eyes, nose and mouth. Every surface we touch may have the virus on it and therefore handwashing, avoiding touching your face and cleaning are extra important. The virus can live on surfaces, especially plastic for 72 hours and fabric for at least 48 hours.

The government have currently said PPE should not be worn in Early years settings unless dealing with an ill child. The reason is germs accumulate on the outside of a mask and when touched it is spread to hands and then to others. Face masks should only be worn for short periods at a time before being changed.

We can accept children who attend more than one setting but will reserve the right to keep this under review to minimise the risk of Covid 19 being spread during the Pandemic.

On arrival all staff and visitors must wash their hands or use sanitiser. Handwashing should take place regularly and always after wiping noses or dealing with accidents and after coughing, sneezing, handling food, or toileting. Staff may use hand sanitiser as well if they wish. All staff must use disposable aprons and gloves when supporting a child in the toilet and aprons when handling food, gloves are optional but hands must be washed with soap before handling food.

We will encourage social distancing when ever possible but understand that due to the nature of our work children need physical contact. Children and staff will be encouraged to carry out as many activities as possible outside when weather permits as this minimises the risk of the virus spreading. Windows must be open when indoors and CO2 monitored. The CO2 reading should be below 1500ppm. If the reading is greater than 800ppm extra ventilation is needed. If above 1500ppm doors should be opened as the risk of Covid spreading is higher.

Water station. Parents have been asked to supply their child with a named water bottle that they can access at all times. Children will be encouraged to drink regularly and the bottled will be refilled during the session

Lunch boxes – Upon arrival lunch boxes will be placed on the trolley. A member of staff will wipe down the box and packaging with anti bac wipes if we currently have cases of covid in the setting, Staff will then check the contents for best before and use by dates and food containing nuts. All lunch boxes must have an icepack.

During lunch if a child needs assistance with their lunch box the staff member should wear gloves or wash their hands before and after contact. (hand sanitiser can be used)

Play

Children will be encouraged to play and learn outside as much as possible to reduce transmission of infection and droplets onto surfaces where it can be easily spread weather permitting.

Dressing - up clothes and a few soft toys will be available during each session and washed regularly during the week.

Playdough and malleable play. Children will need to wash their hands before and after use. If a child coughs or sneezes over the area then the playdough or product needs to be binned and the area cleaned. Water play will be changed throughout the day and sand will be cleaned with Milton daily, thrown away or stored for 48hours before being used again.

Cleaning

All work surfaces and tables should be cleaned regularly and chairs at the end of the session. All switches and door handles should be cleaned after each session. E.G. 12pm and 3.30pm

Toilets need to be cleaned at least twice a day and toilet handles and taps cleaned after use as these will harbour covid 19 longer. Children should be encouraged to use the hand dryer rather than paper towels to reduce spread of infection.

All toys to be cleaned after use with Milton spray or hot soapy water and before being put away. Please ensure they are dry to prevent mould and bacteria growing.

Carpets will be hoovered daily and cleaned termly. All hard floors will be washed daily.

Personal Hygiene

Children are to be encouraged to use tissues for their nose, cough into their elbow and wash their hands for 20 seconds after. Singing a song while they wash will help. All tissues and paper towels must be placed in a lidded bin that has a plastic bag inside. When emptying bins, bags must be tied to seal the bag before disposing of it into the main bin.

Children will not be able to share/ borrow clothing and should come with spare clothes, coats, and sun hats. Children will need their own labelled sun-cream to minimise cross infection during warmer weather.

If a child or staff member has a continuous cough, bad cold or temperature they should not come to the setting. Staff must take either a Lateral flow test if asymptomatic or PCR test if they have symptoms in line with government guidance. Children should not attend until symptoms have passed except for a mild non persistent cough if they test negative or until the 7 day isolation period has passed and they test negative after a positive PCR test.

Covid cases

Should a child develop signs of Covid 19 during a session they should be isolated until collected. A member of staff must stay with the child and wear gloves, disposable apron and mask. Once the child has left PPE should be disposed of and hands washed for 20 seconds. Parents should seek advice re testing and booking a PCR test on the government website. Lateral flow tests are recommended for asymptomatic testing and a PCR if you have symptoms. Results from either method are acceptable although if you have symptoms and the LFT is negative a PCR should be undertaken.

If the child is negative, following a PCR test, they can return providing they have no symptoms. If they are positive Parents must notify us and keep the child home for a minimum of 7 days following the start of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic. The first day of isolation is the day after the test result or start of symptoms. The HSE state a child under 12 should isolate with one carer for 7 days, test negative and until symptoms have gone or there is only a slight cough or loss of smell and taste . They should restrict mixing for a further 3 days is advised.

If a vaccinated person tests negative on day 5 and day 6 after a positive test, they can leave isolation if they have no symptoms other than a slight cough or loss of taste and smell. If still positive then the 10-day period remains If symptoms persist after 10 day's they should seek advice from the GP on whether it is safe for the child to return. The 10- day isolation period is extended if new symptoms appear. Track and trace will give advice on isolation.

The government states that `From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days following close contact with a positive case and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts

If you are NOT vaccinated then you need to isolate for 10 full days following close contact or testing positive.

Coleview Pre-school Policy on attending.

Coleview Pre-school are requesting that if a parent or close contact have a positive Covid result that you keep your child home during the isolation period to minimise the risk to others. This is a minimum of 7 days including day of test. We ask that you follow government recommendations for children under 5 and seek a PCR test for your child before they return to Pre-school.

We understand children are less likely to be seriously affected by Covid but Covid is easily spread and there are very vulnerable people attending the setting who we have a duty of care for. If your child catches Covid you must inform us and keep them home as we will need to inform Covid Response as per the local authority requirements for settings.

Lateral flows are meant for asymptomatic testing. A PCR is recommended if you have any symptoms, even mild ones or have been contacted by test and trace.

You must isolate until you receive your PCR result and if you or your child test positive

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within settings. Staff will continue to test twice weekly at home, with rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.

Early years children are not included in the rapid testing programme. UKHSA has advised there are limited public health benefits attached to testing early years children with rapid lateral flow coronavirus (COVID-19) tests. Young children may find the rapid lateral flow testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

Please understand as a Pre-school we are controlled by ratios and government guidance and should there be insufficient staff we may close.

If we have cases of covid we will use the notice board to inform our families and ask that you consider testing your child to protect everyone.

Arrivals

All families will be asked to have **one** parent/adult accompany their child/children when dropping off and collecting

To support social distancing Parents will be asked to wait in line outside the setting and try to keep a 2-metre distance from other people. Parents must not stand by the gate entrance.

A member of staff will greet you and your child and ask about their health. If your child has any Covid symptoms, A bad cold or cough or generally unwell then you will be asked to take them home until they are well. This is to protect everyone at Coleview Pre-school and enable us to stay open.

The greeter will then let your child through into the main corridor where a member of staff will let the child into the classroom and place their coat and bag on a peg.

The Home-link book will be placed in the box for reading by staff and any letters added. Staff will also put any important information in the book. At the end of the week the book will be updated with details of your child's week.

Going home

Parents will need to wait outside on social distancing spaces. They must not stand in the gate way as this will restrict spacing to exit after collecting their child.

Home Time

Children will wait inside, with their coat and bags ready to go home. A member of staff will stay with them.

Parents one at a time will approach the main entrance when called but not come inside. A member of staff will take the child to the outside door and do a short handover. Important Information will be written/ placed in your child's home link book. Staff and parents should try to maintain social distancing during handover.

Outbreak Contingency Plan

As per the latest guidance Coleview pre-school will adopt the following guidance.

If there are 2 or more positive cases within 10 days or 10% of the setting testing positive within 10 days then we will contact the DFE and Public health for extra guidance re staying open.

We will complete a Covid risk assessment and will carry out extra hygiene measures, open all windows, use enhanced cleaning schedules, restrict access to all visitors, daily Lateral flow tests for asymptomatic staff and may introduce face coverings for staff. Parents will be advised to consider completing daily LFT tests for their child.

If we are advised to reduce our capacity then places will be offered to essential workers and vulnerable children first. If we are advised to close this will be for a minimum of 10 days following the day of notification.

If a positive case results in the person being hospitalised, we will contact PHE on 08000468687 as per <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-local-restrictions-in-education-and-childcare-settings/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings>.

Following a Positive PCR test, Test and Trace will contact close contacts, they may contact Coleview Pre-school for names of those in close contact which we will provide. We are no longer responsible for contacting parents and children following an outbreak.

Further information is available on the government website for parents and carers of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges.